FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY (Stereotaxic Surgery). Reprint from "Confinia Neurologica," Vol. 22, No. 3-5, p. 165-396 (1962). Symposium held in Philadelphia, Pa., on October 11-12, 1961, at Temple University Medical Center. Edited by E. A. Spiegel and H. T. Wycis, Philadelphia, Pa. Published by S. Karger A. G., Basel, 1962. 232 pages, 37 figures, 10 tables, $10.50. American Distributor: Albert J. Phiebig, P. O. Box 352, White Plains, N. Y.

This paper-bound monograph reprints the proceedings of the first international meeting devoted entirely to human stereotaxic surgery. Brought together by the founding fathers of human stereotaxis, E. A. Spiegel and H. T. Wycis, workers from nine countries presented 36 papers encompassing localization of deep structures, stimulation and recording techniques, lesion production and quantitation, and therapeutic results.

Localization procedures presented ran the gamut from unsophisticated techniques to carefully planned two-stage procedures with precise instruments and careful radiographic and physiological controls. Fortunately most essayists gave target coordinates (in millimeters) from x-ray visualized intracranial landmarks, though some failed to realize the importance of visualizing at least three points (or two points and a plane) to determine the location of a point within the volume of the brain.

Stimulation and recording techniques were generally agreed to be valuable neurophysiological adjuncts to localization although widely differing results were reported by the various authors. If greater attention were paid to the known requirements for effective stimulation, many apparent disagreements could be resolved.

A wide variety of lesion producing techniques was described including heat, cold, chemical, radiation, ultrasonic and mechanical methods. A few results on the accurate quantitation of tissue destruction were included, though the need for more work in this field is apparent.

The widest area of agreement seems to have been in the therapeutic value of stereotaxic procedures. All the groups reporting found the method to be of great value, particularly in the therapy of extrapyramidal disorders.

The book suffers from a number of typographical errors, most of which are inconsequential (although some, such as that in the formula on page 338 describing cold lesion size, are unfortunate). In summary this volume conveys well the excitement and promise—as well as the confusion—in the field of human stereotaxis. Although many of the presentations are not adequate to provide a definitive picture of the state of the art, the book is essential reading for those who are engaged in this work or who contemplate such an undertaking.

W. WATSON ALBERTS, Ph.D.

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THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS OF MEDICINE—A Brief History of Medicine—J. F. A. McManus, M.D., Professor of Pathology, The Experimental Program of Medical Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill., 1963. 115 pages, $4.75.

This small monograph summarizes what the author regards as the important philosophies and ideas involving medicine up to current times.

There are nine chapters. The first one notes the uses of history; the second the fact that since more than 3000 years B.C. different ideas and theories have been propounded. The important place of the Hippocratic school is stressed in this section. (While paying great deference to Hippocrates, he does not point out the paradox of our common nonobservance of that part of the oath which calls upon us to teach certain disciples without charge. "I swear by Apollo the physician and Aesculapius . . . that according to my ability and judgment I will teach them (the offspring of my teacher) this art if they shall wish to learn it without fee or stipulation . . .") In the next few chapters the influence of Thales beginning in 6th century, B.C. is duly noted (the leaders of this school suggested that everything in the world was made of water . . . not too far from fact). Aristotle concluded that shape is determined by function, and of course had great influence on the Alexandrian school. After many years Galileo bursts upon the scene in the 16th century and "changes the conceptual framework in terms of which man investigated the natural world as a whole".

Boerhaave, in the 17th, developed the method of clinical teaching familiar to us today. Haller, the great physiologist, was one of his pupils; another was Cullen, who influenced the Hunter brothers, and through them Bright and Rush. Sydenham in the same century extended this technique of bedside teaching.

In the final section the author points out that "There have been great mistakes (in patient care) and sombre episodes not infrequent in medical history—the horrendous concoctions of the pharmacopoeia, the gallons of blood let in the name of rational therapy . . . and so forth". He quotes Snapper that "Every generation of physicians has over-estimated the progress made by medicine in its own time".

There are short biographical notes stretching from Adanson to Wunderlich, and an excellent list of suggested reading for those who would delve more thoroughly into medical history.

Well illustrated and printed; a good bedside table book.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.D.

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THE BIOLOGY OF MENTAL DEFECT—2nd Edition, (Completely Revised with the assistance of J. M. Berg, M.B., M.Sc., and Helen Lang-Brown)—L. S. Penrose, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.; with a preface by J. B. S. Haldane, D.Sc., F.R.S. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1963. 374 pages, $6.75.

Since this is now a standard work in the field of mental deficiency, this revision is most welcome. In this expanded version new material concerning the genetic problems of mental retardation is very well spelled out. The bibliography, as in previous editions, is excellent.

What is missing, from the American point of view, is a better discussion of the cultural facets of mental deficiency. This subject is only partly covered along with the discussion of those forms of defect that result from mental illness. This does not fully reflect current American thinking either as to the extent of the problem nor its function within society. Otherwise, this book continues to be a standard and highly acceptable text.

HENRY H. WORK, M.D.

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AN ATLAS OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Hugo Roesler, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia; and Evan Fletcher, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Physician, Belfast City Hospital, Northern Ireland. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md., 1963. 700 pages, $28.00.

This Atlas is a comprehensive account of the electrocardiograms of 400 patients with autopsy data on 136. The authors believe that a critical analysis of a large number of tracings correlated with clinical and pathological data is the only way a useful knowledge of clinical electrocardiography can be acquired. This large volume (700 pages) constitutes implementation of that belief.

The book is divided into ten sections, of which the largest (as seems appropriate) is that dealing with myocardial infarction. Each section is preceded by a brief resume. Each electrocardiogram has a detailed interpretation of the limb

leads and of the chest leads, followed by the ECG diagnosis, the clinical data, and general comment. As a rule, the electrocardiographic reproductions are clear but occasionally, especially in records with many serial tracings, the reproductions are quite small although distinct. The interpretations reflect contemporary opinion, involve physiological thinking and often reflect orientation with respect to vector concepts.

The authors are obviously experienced clinicians and expert electrocardiographers. The senior author died in 1961 while the manuscript was being prepared for the publisher.

The major criticism of the book, especially for individuals not well grounded in electrocardiography, is the absence of data in each section of the criteria for the diagnosis of the various abnormalities. The various criteria are woven throughout the interpretation and comments but one is uncertain what the criteria in general are for each of the diagnoses. This could either be appended at the end of the section in a table or could be written in a summary. The reviewer believes this would enhance the value of the book.

There is a good deal of repetition in that a variety of similar cardiograms are displayed in the various sections but it is apparent that the authors believe that this repetition in an atlas adds to the reader's experience.

Physicians interested in enhancing their knowledge of clinical electrocardiography and who use electrocardiograms (as they should) as an adjunct in the clinical evaluation of their patients, will learn a great deal from this book. It requires, however, study in conjunction with a standard text of electrocardiography in order to have a more systematic approach to the subject.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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MECHANICS OF DEMYELINATION—edited by Augustus S. Rose, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology), and Carl M. Pearson, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California (Los Angeles) School of Medicine. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., The Blakiston Division, New York, Toronto, London, 1963. 253 pages, $13.50.

This book is a record of papers and discussions of several speakers at a conference at UCLA in 1962. The five guest speakers were Drs. John N. Cumings, Robert A. Good, Fritiof S. Sjostrand, Byron H. Waksman, and Abner Wolf. Discussed were "The structure and formation of the myelin sheath," "The chemistry of myelin and some aspects of myelination," "Some biochemical considerations regarding different forms of demyelination," "Spontaneous human and experimental simian demyelinating disease," "Hypersensitivity mechanisms," "Immunologic competence," "Experimental allergic encephalomyelitis," and "experimental immunologic disease of the peripheral nervous system."

Not only is there a summary of the work of these contributors, but there is also a review of work in the fields and an excellent bibliography. The great value of this book is the amount of information it presents concerning fundamental research in demyelinating disease. This is of particular value to those working in such fields and the many questions asked with few answers can well serve as a stimulus for research.

For those in clinical neurology this collection of information and reviews affords an excellent point of observation of the laboratory approach to these demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, which still remain an unsolved problem.

The chapters on "Hypersensitivity mechanisms in man and animals" and on "Immunologic Competence" present fundamentals of immunology and immunologic mechanisms and up-to-date concepts of hypersensitivity and autoimmune disease. These will be of interest and value to readers not concerned directly with neurology or neurological research. The last 30 pages of this 250-page volume are given to panel discussion. This is particularly interesting as it clearly reveals the many unsolved questions and also the concepts underlying certain approaches to attempts at solutions to these problems and also the great defects in the mass knowledge available at present.

This is a most important collection of information, opinions, and concepts regarding these fundamental problems underlying demyelinating disease of man and animals.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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PATHOGENESIS OF ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION—Proceedings of the Joint W. H. O.-Czechoslovak Cardiological Society Symposium, Prague, May 22nd to 29th, 1960. Chairman: C. Heymans, Ghent; Vice-Chairmen: V. V. Parin, Moscow; and H. A. Schroeder, Brattleboro, U. S. A. Editors: J. H. Cort, V. Fencl, Z. Hejl, J. Jirka, the Institute for Cardiovascular Research, Prague. A Pergamon Press Book, The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, 1962. (Publication date: August 26, 1963) 477 pages, $15.00.

This volume is the proceedings of the Joint W. H. O.—Czechoslovak Cardiological Society. These proceedings were held in Prague in May, 1960, and represented an attempt to clarify the existing knowledge on the pathogenesis of essential hypertension. The format of the meeting is to be commended in that for each working session there were two formal lectures followed by long general discussion allowing effective critique of the various facets of essential hypertension. The participants, therefore, not only presented their own contributions but were able to actively discuss all the other presentations.

The participants consisted of active research workers in England, France, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland. The proceedings probably represent the best analysis of international thought currently available on the subject. Each paper was presented in the individual's own language but has been translated into English. At the end of the meeting, a summary report prepared under the direction of Professor Clifford Wilson concludes the volume.

Areas of hypertension covered include diagnosis, epidemiology, the central nervous system and hypertension, hemodynamics, vessel wall factors, and metabolic factors. Each paper is well illustrated and has a pertinent bibliography. The level of the lectures and the discussion are of a high order and during the discussion differences of opinion were aired.

In general, the volume can be highly recommended as an authoritative account of the present status of the pathogenesis of essential hypertension as viewed by authorities from many different parts of the world. Many of the opinions expressed by workers whose native language is not English will be of particular interest to American readers.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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EARLY CANCER—Prevention, Detection, Course, Treatment—Leonard B. Goldman, M.D., Chairman, Tumor Conference and Director, Radiation Medicine Department, Queens Hospital Center; Consultant Radiation Therapist, Flushing, Booth Memorial, St. Joseph's (Far Rockaway), South Nassau Communities and Peninsula General Hospitals, New York. Formerly, Clinical Professor of Radiotherapy, New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 10016, 1963. 324 pages, $12.50.

This small book is divided into 12 chapters. The opening chapter deals with "general considerations" of the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The remaining 11 sections deal with tumors of specific sites such as skin, brain, chest and so forth. The final chapter deals with sarcoma of soft tissues and tumors of bone.

While the title is "Early Cancer" many of the illustrations